

Cohasset Mariner

The Mariner (and supplements) is a paid circulation newspaper published every Thursday at 541 Plain St., Marshfield, Mass. 02050 for and about the residents of Cohasset. Telephone 545-3950 or 837-3500. Mailing address: Box 71, Cohasset, Mass. 02025. Second class postage paid at Marshfield, Mass. 02050.

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As The Mariner goes to press Tuesday night, all news and advertising copy must be received by Monday at 5 p.m. Readers are invited to submit personal items, accounts of social functions, meetings, wedding and engagements. Photographs (black and white glossy) are also welcome.

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Editorial

When To Help

The recently discovered death of an elderly woman in a Beechwood Street home amidst an accumulation of years of decaying refuse has shocked the town, particularly close neighbors.

We are all reacting to an abnormal situation. It is abhorrent and foreign to us — we are faced with a delicate dilemma. Foremost, the surviving member of the household must be protected from the ravages of sensationalism; we must respect his rights, his property and his certain grief. Yet somehow a thought remains that this sad case could have been prevented, without violation of privacy.

Dr. Roger Pompeo, Health Board Chairman, questioned the lack of inquiry about the house considering its advanced state of external decay. He informed those concerned residents attending Monday's Board of Health meeting that whenever the suspicion of a serious health problem exists in town, that office can be notified anonymously.

It is difficult, one resident replied, to get to know or help people when they are living behind closed blinds, when they have eccentric habits and when they are seldom seen.

We understand both stances and find them quite natural and true. However, that elusive fine line between neglect and ignorance of aberration is perhaps in need of definition. Perhaps, too, there are no tenable answers, that loneliness will always exist. That when those who are vulnerable and most in need of attention shut themselves in, they succeed only in further repulsing friends and neighbors.

Health Board member Marilyn Sweeney suggested that the Coastal Community Counseling Services aid a neighborhood group concerned about the future of the Beechwood home. We, too, find this a good approach — and possibly one that could generate intervention programs to prevent this from happening again.

Allegations Unfounded

To the Editor:

It continues to astound me, that, when writing on subjects concerning the Town, a ninety year old gentleman can go out and gather the facts in a truthful, unbiased manner, arrive at logical conclusions, free of unfounded allegations and insinuations, and present them for publication as newsworthy informative thoughts for us to share without maligning any public servant, (ref. letter 8/9/79 Gilbert Tower); while the Cohasset Mirror's own news reporter writes untruths, poorly researched subjects, overtly biased opinions, making unfounded inferences and allegations while maligning people who have served the Town unselfishly for years on a subject which he knows fully well is still being heard by the Courts, (it is therefore unwise for past or present Town Officials to make public comment on these subjects), (ref. Surrey Drive Article, 8/9/79, by John Kinchla).

The Cohasset Mariner has recently published articles which were similarly poorly researched, and similarly

made unfounded allegations or inferences about Town Officials. In both newspapers, these articles are clearly inflammatory, perhaps in order to create sensationalism by arousing suspicion of Town Officials conspiring behind closed doors for personal gain at the expense of the betterment of the Town.

Are these two journals witch-hunting? Are they intentionally creating sensationalism?

I submit that both are in need of more subscribers in order that they might both survive. I suspect that both are trying to create news, rather than report it.

The Board of Health meets every second and fourth Monday at 8 p.m. at its offices on Elm Street. We welcome any citizen to any meeting, (they are all open). We prefer any questions or allegations be voiced publicly at our meetings, so as to be answered completely and honestly.

Mr. Kinchla is especially invited.

Roger A. Pompeo
Chairman
Board of Health

Commentary

Recreational Opportunities

By John Worley
Recreation Director

Superficially, it would appear to be a relatively simple task to determine the types of recreational activities that one would like to become involved with.

However, many individuals short-change themselves in identifying and selecting those programs and activities which are best suited to their needs and fulfill basic requirements for the creative use of leisure time. Much thought and planning is required to properly accomplish this.

Often individuals make program choices based on three basic criteria: 1) interest, 2) ability, 3) familiarity. While these factors are important, they are also somewhat restrictive. We all, perhaps, have a tendency to engage in those activities that we know and perform best, ultimately restricting our exposure to new, or less familiar forms of recreational activities. Individual preferences too often fall in line with interests gained from past experiences and exposures. While it is fine to continue with the more familiar activities, we should also be aware that we are severely limiting our opportunities to expand our leisure time pursuits.

All too often we disregard a particular program based on the name of the program. Not unlike a book, recreational activities should not be judged by title alone. (This attitude has been demonstrated by simply changing the name of a program from a less familiar one, which generated minimal response, to a more familiar one which elicited an overwhelming response — the program format and content remained the same.)

It is important to inquire what the program content specifically is. Interest is, of

course, an essential factor, and based on knowledge of the program content we should be able to determine whether or not the program would be of interest. Familiarity and ability, in most cases, should not enter in our decision at all. Rather, other criteria should be employed. It should be determined as to why we are seeking a recreation program.

There are as many reasons for becoming involved as there are participants. Many join programs for socialization alone. Others join to broaden horizons, to stay physically fit, while still others become involved to learn new skills or brush-up on old ones. If we understand why we are seeking recreation we will be more apt to choose the right program and be less apt to be disappointed by the program, (or ourselves). Recreational involvement should be the one facet of our lives where we are willing to expose ourselves to new experiences, experiment with new ideas, and accept new adventures without any inhibitions or worries of failing or not performing well.

There are many other factors that enter into choosing recreational activities. We should ask ourselves a few key questions before deciding on any activity. 1) Do we have the necessary leisure time to become involved? 2) Have we the motivation (interest), based on information at hand to follow through with the program? 3) Do we have the financial resources to become involved? 4) Does our health permit us to participate fully in the program? 5) What do we hope to gain by participating in the program? 6) Is there anything else that I would rather be doing with my leisure time?

Before we make a commitment, we should at least think a bit about all of these questions. Also, we should not

be restricted to only those questions, but rather use them as a matrix of our guidelines. It is not a bad idea to determine objectives and/or goals that you wish to reach via program participation. It is far easier to evaluate the program and your individual accomplishments or enjoyment if you have pre-determined, basic objectives.

Recreation programs vary in content, format, duration, and degree of physical/mental activity. Some are essentially instructional while others are basically entertaining. Recreation, per se, has no real boundaries and while the classic definition "is the creative use of leisure time," it is probably doubtful that leisure time use be "creative." Perhaps the one most influential factor relative to a successful recreation program is the quality of the instructor.

This is particularly true in the case of instructional recreation programs. One, therefore, must be careful when evaluating a program to distinguish between the quality of instruction and the content of the program. Do not disregard the form of activity as being something you do not like until you have made sure that it was not the way the activity was presented that turned you off.

In summary, do not be hesitant to try new types of recreational activities while still being involved with the ones you are familiar with. Pre-determine, in your own mind, what it is you are seeking, and why you are seeking it. Gather information in regard to program content, and do not be too concerned with names. Often it helps to involve a friend or spouse in a new venture — after all — recreation is one of our most gregarious forms of socialization and one of the best outlets for daily pressures.

Around Town Hall

RESIGNATION

Gerard Keating submitted his resignation to the Committee to Study the Structure of Town Government, effective July 31.

PAPA GINO'S

Papa Gino's restaurant, opened recently in Cushing Plaza, has been issued a wine and malt license.

SWAIN DECK

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Swain of 371 North Main Street was notified for the second time by Building Inspector James Litchfield that the sundeck constructed at the rear of their dwelling is in violation of the state building code and the town bylaws.

The Swain's application for a building permit was denied for lack of the following information: structural drawings, site plan and Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The Swains were notified to remove all parts of the struc-



ture.

POTHoles FILLED

The parking area and access entrance to Cushing Plaza has recently been repaired, reported Selectman Arthur Clark. The potholes, which if left unfilled would have required the withholding of occupancy permits, were filled with a durable and dustless material to conform with the zoning bylaws.

HARMONY HILL

Building Inspector James Litchfield has notified the

Mass. Special Education Association that Camp Harmony Hill at 39 Beechwood Street will not conform to state Building Code requirements for a certificate of inspection.

Until corrections have been made to conform to the code of every sleeping room, Litchfield said, occupancy of the structure is in violation of another section of the code which requires the posting of a valid certificate.

FEOLA PRE-TRIAL

Patrolman Randolph Feola, Jr. appeared in Hingham District Court August 10, at which time a pre-conference trial date was set, for the latest of motor vehicle charges issued against him by Hull Police. Feola said he was disturbed that the trial date wasn't set last week and noted that no Hull police accident reports were ready for the court appearance, although the violations were charged three weeks ago.